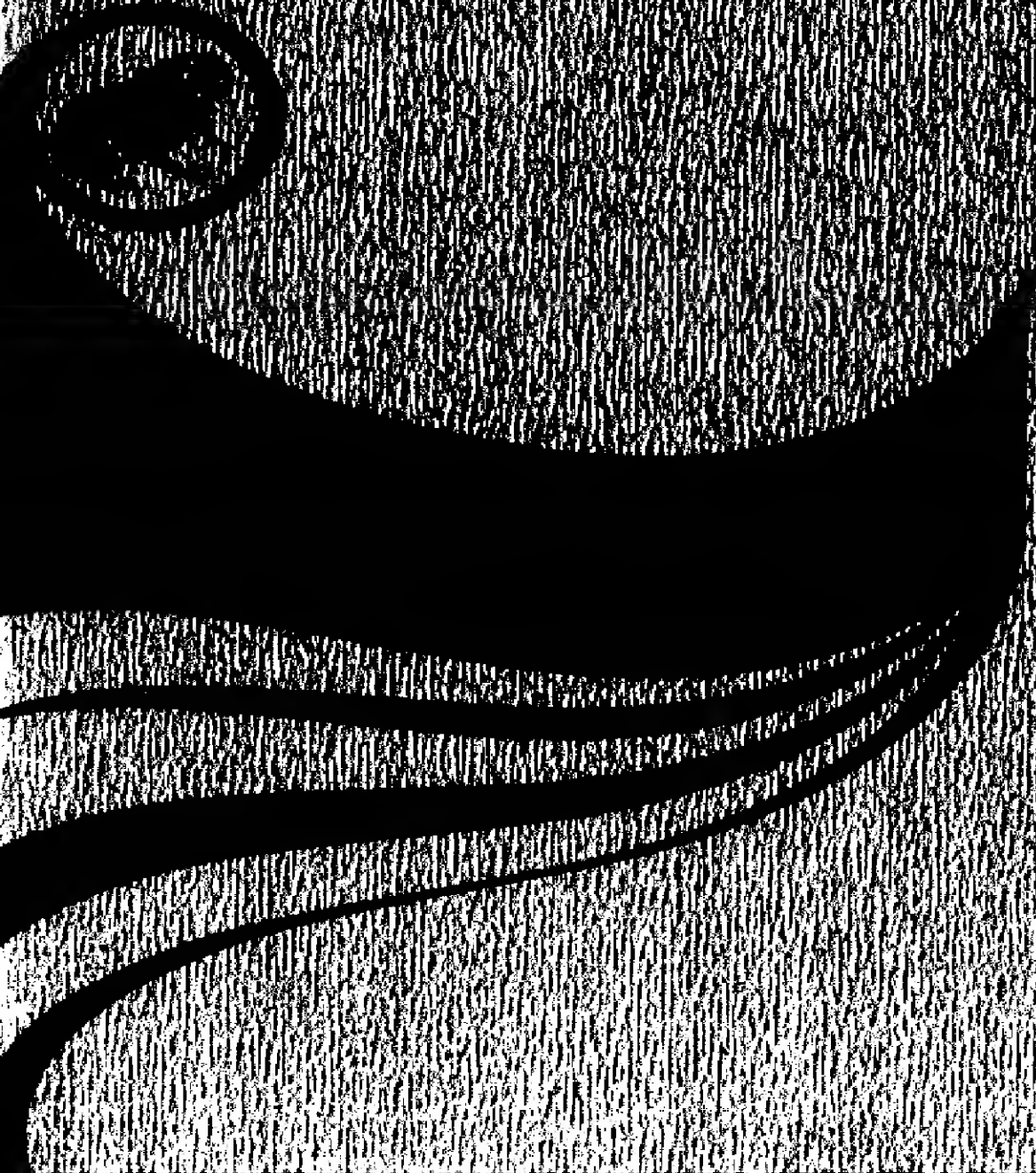


Black Frog



black frog

Volume I, Issue 25
November 25th, 1980

25

..... final issue in Volume I

BLACK FROG is a Diplomacy Zine that emphasizes that Postal Diplomacy is fun! Subscriptions are \$12.00 per 24 issues or for one year--whichever happens last. This rate is good, however, only until January 1st, 1981--look for it to go up. The publisher is John H. ('Jack') Masters, 25711 North Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. Telephone: (805) 259-2811.

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DIPLOMACY is a multi-player war game invented by A. B. Calhamer and presently owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co. At present five games are in progress in Black Frog; there are no present game openings and none are expected until early 1981

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Well here it is, the fourth issue of Black Frog over the last eight days. I hope everybody enjoyed the two specials, #'s 23 and 24. Some of you received #24 before #23, but it will cause no problem. #'s 22 and 24 were both slightly over one ounce, causing an additional expenditure of \$18.20 on postage. I considered sending them third class (at least #24 by third class) but decided against it.

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I would appreciate getting a little bit of feedback on how you view some of these recent publications. The two specials (#'s 23 and 24); the rather lengthy and expensive #22; the editorial in #21; and the Pug Bocarsley story in #21.

As many of you noted, I have filed a copyright on the Pug Bocarsley story. I did this for a couple of reasons and not to restrict any further use of the story. If any of you pubbers want to use this story in your zine; you are more than welcome to do so--just be sure that you credit it's first appearance to Black Frog and it's authorship to me. And, send me a copy. A couple of people have written and stated that they thought the article should be reprinted in Diplomacy Digest. What about that Mark Berch? Dave Perlmutter has written and suggested that the copyright should belong to James Thurber. See press under 1980HR (War). But, what did James Thurber know about Diplomacy? Dave did, however,

correctly identify my source of inspiration for the Pug Bocarsley bit as being James Thurber's The Greatest Man in the World as appeared in New Yorker magazine many many years ago. Thurber's story involved a pilot named Pal Smurch who flew a single-motored monoplane all the way around the world, without stopping in 1937.

.....

CHRISTMAS HIATUS

The Christmas season is not only a very busy time of year for most of us, but it is also a time of year when the mail service (upon which the postal Diplomacy hobby is so dependent) is very slow. Thus, Black Frog will observe a brief hiatus after December 16th (when all five games have orders due) and will allow a respite of six weeks before calling for any additional orders. There is a possibility of a special issue appearing during those six weeks, however.

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AN ANGRY REPLY TO MARK LARZELERE

I recently received this note from Mark Larzelere, publisher of a new zine known as Appalling Greed. "Bruce Linsey said a few issues back that you were a pseudonym for him. I notice your style and the topics you cover are similar to his, but your signature is different. Hmm..."

Well Mark..... the only time, to my knowledge that anybody has called me a pseudonym for Bruce Linsey was Dave Perlmutter in an article, intended in humor, that he published in Volkerwanderung about six months back. But, it is not this that bothers and angers me, it is the comment that my style and the topics I cover are similar to his. Black Frog contains well run games, light hobby news and satirical or humorous articles. Bruce's zine, Voice of Doom, contains a lot of player controversy crap, endless discussions of rules interpretations, letters to the editor, and many other sorts of things, plus games and an occasional humorous articals. Now VoD has its place and many people really dig this sort of stuff and I too regard VoD as a top zine. But, IT IS NOT MY STYLE and I hope other readers recognize the distinction between the style and topics of BF and VoD.

801D

death

s'02

16 of 30 UNITS STAND STILL AS THREE VIE
OVER SERBIA AND AUSTRIA COMMITS AN NMR!

AUST (Cusack): NMR! (Neutral orders by Apple Computer!)
F TRI (h); A BUD-Ser; A GAL-Bud.

ENGL (Grabar): F LPL-Iri; A Yor-WAL; F Nth-LON; F Nwy-
NTH.

FRAN (Guajardo): F ENG-Iri; F Bre-MAO; A Par-PIC; A BEL
(s) German A Hol; A Por-SPA.

GERM (Mercer) A Ruh-MUN; F Kie-HEL; F DEN (s) F Kie-
Hel; A Hol-KIE; A Ber-PRU.

ITAL (Schiwautz) A Ven-TYR; A Apu-VEN; F Nap-ION;
F GRE-Apu/impossible!/.

RUSS (Shufeldt) F Gob-SWE; F SEV (s) Austrian A Gal-
Rum/nso/; A MOS (s) F Sev; A RUM-Ser;
A WAR-Gal.

TURK (Mooney): A BUL-Ser; F BLA-Rum; A ARM-Sev;
A CON-Bul.

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Fall 1902 orders are due on December 16th, 1980 at
12:00 noon PST.

There is no change of address for Jay Shufeldt
this time and there is no press!

.....

80HR

war

w'02

THE APPLE SUPPLIES BUILDS FOR RUSSIA

AUST (Schaller): R F ALB. Has A BOH; A TRI; A SER.

ENGL (Perlmutter) Has A NWY; F BAR; F NWN; F LON.

FRAN (Carson) B F BRE. Also has A WAL; F ENG;
F IRI; A BUR; A SPA.

1980HR (Continued):

GERM (Carter): Has A HOL; A MUN; F NTH; F HEL;
and A DEN.

ITAL (Hanson): B A ROM. Also has A VIE; A VEN; A
APU; and F ION.

RUSS (Tilley): Has A UKR; A SEV; A STP; F SWE; A
GAL; and F RUM.

TURK (Burnett): NBR! (Apple Computer submits neutral
build!) B A ANK. Also has F BLA;
A BUL; A GRE; F AEG.

.....

Spring 1903 orders are due on December 16th at
12:00 noon PST.

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Press:

AUSTRIA: Press? What Press? I don't have any press!
I don't have to show you any press!

VIENNA: The Vatican's emissaries from Sicily are finding
those Serbo-Croatians to be rather tight fisted with
their tax deductible contributions. Another fleet
of black limos is being sent from Rome to make those
Serbs an offer they can't refuse.

EDINBURGH: The Perlmutter stood on the burning deck, on
his cheek was a defiant red speck. This mark proved
his demeanor was yet proud, and his head was bloody
but unbowed.

DAN PALTER DEPT: When I get down to 2 centers, then I'll
let the computer

MERION SPOILSPORT to BLACK JACK: Your story was even
better than Thurber's original! Copyright indeed.
What's next?

'The Old Man and the NMR'
'For Whom the Deadline Passes'
??????????

But seriously folks, Jack only plagerizes some of
the time. The rest of the time he just outright
steals.

BLACK JACK to SPOILSPORT: What does Thurber know about
Diplomacy? As for Hemingway.....I can give you
Hemingway.... for instance.....

FOR WHOM THE DEADLINE PASSES

by Black Jack Hemmingway

David sat at a small table in a small sidewalk cafe on the Via Flamina and thought of his bitter betrayal in the fall of 1901. His left toe had been amputated shortly thereafter. It was a rotten way to be stabbed.

It was not good to be without a left little toe. Some things were good. Like controlling the supply center in Belgium. Yes, that is good. But this is not. David looked up and saw the young girl coming toward him down the warm street. She was young and very pretty. Pretty the way you can only be when you are young. He had been young once and had had all of his toes and plenty of women. But things were different now. And he knew he was lonely. Oh to be young again and to have toes. But he had no left little toe, so he must not think of such things. To think of the supply center in Belgium, that was alright. But not of toes.

"You are very beautiful," he said.

"Will you go to bed with me?", she asked, winking.

"I do not see how we can avoid it."

David was right some things you can avoid and some you cannot. It would be good. He would make love and that too would be good. But he hoped that she would not laugh at him when she saw that he had no left little toe.

And very far away the Gamemaster performed adjudications. There were no orders for David. The Italian fleet seized Spain. It was a damn lousy way to fight a war. It was a damn lousy way to play a game.

.....

David was very old now and only played Dune. He was very old and a long way from that golden afternoon on the Via Flamina. But he could remember. The Girl. The bed. The supply center in Belgium. And Spain. Oh God, how he had wanted to take Spain. Dammit, he had failed to take Spain. The supply center in Belgium was very good, but he had failed to take Spain. He took off his left shoe and stared morosely at where his left little toe should have been.

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There is more 80HR press, but I will hold it over to the next issue--just eight days away.

BLACK FROG RECIPE

(Note! After just four more issues, Claw and Fang will cease publication. Since Claw and Fang was, to the best of my knowledge, the only zine to regularly publish recipes, it will leave a big gap in this area upon its demise. Black Frog will attempt to partially fill this gap by the occasional publication of a recipe. To wit.....)

*** BAKED STUFFED CAMEL ***

(serves 400)

One camel*
40 loaves of bread
25 onions
100 plover eggs**
1 can of anchovies
50 cups of chopped olives
800 pitted dried dates
1 large canteloupe
1 load of palm fronds***

Unless camel is purchased cleaned and dressed, cut open animal and remove all viscera. Skinning the animal is optional. Break up bread loaves into small chunks and mix with eggs. Coarsely chopped onions, olives and dates are next added and the entire mixture stirred together. Place canteloupe, whole, in animals mouth.

Dig large pit in ground and line with rocks. Using hardwoods only, build large bonfire in pit and allow to burn until reduced to glowing embers. This usually takes from six to eight hours. Lower camel, with mixture stuffed inside into pit. Cover entire top of pit with palm fronds. Keep covered for at least ten hours, keeping palm fronds wet so that they do not catch fire.

Remove fronds, dig in and enjoy. Be sure to have plenty of "doggie" bags on hand as your guests will want to take home some of the leftovers. This is a very unusual meal and will turn the dulllest of get togethers into festive occasions. Your guests will talk about it for years!

* If camels are unavailable or out of season, you may substitute a dromedary.

** OK to use 80 hens eggs.

*** Pine boughs marginally acceptable. Substitute only if you have to.

HOW TO TALK SOUTHERN PART V

This has been an ongoing series and has appeared in Black Frog #'s 10, 12, 16 and 20 prior to this installment. The series is intended as a playing aid to those who get stuck in Diplomacy games with the likes of Bill Hart, Gary Coughlan, or any other player from the Deep South, and who must correspond or otherwise negotiate with them.

WAW: A conflict between military forces. "Diplomacy is a waw game."

WEAR OUT: An expression used to describe a method of behavior modification for children. "When Ah get ahold of that chile', Ah'm gonna wear him out."

WENDER: A glass covered opening in the side of a house. "Open that wender and let in some fresh air."

WENDERLIGHT: The pane of glass itself in a wender. "We better run, the baseball went right through the wenderlight."

WHIRL: Where will. "Whirl you go next summer, Atlant-iCon or Origins?"

WHUP: To beat up or to strike. "As soon as Ah whup the English player, Ah'm gonna win the game."

WORE OUT: Exhausted. "No sense trying to start up another game, Ah'm done wore out."

WRETCHED: A man's name. "Wretched Burton's a good actor."

WUF: A fierce wild animal of the dog family. When they get together it's called a WUFPACK, which is also the nickname of North Carolina State's athletic teams. "Ah never will forget the time the Wufpack whupped the tar out of UCLA and won the national basketball championship."

WUK: Something most of us have to do to earn money. "Does Gary still wuk at the Memphis postoffice?"

YO: The possessive of you. "What's yo name?"

YELLER: One of the primary colors. "Black Frog is the only zine Ah know that allows yeller press."

YESTERDEE: The day before today. "Where were you yest-erde?"

YANKEE: Anyone who is not from Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and usually Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma and West-by-God-Virginia. A Yankee may become an honorary Southerner (but forget it Bob Olsen--it's not for you) but a southerner cannot become a Yankee, assuming any southerner wanted to. "Daddy, can a Yankee go to heaven?" "Don't ask foolish questions, son. Of course not."

Y'HEAH?: A redundant expression tacked onto the end of phone conversations by Southerners. "Y'all phone me back as soon as you get the spring adjudications, y'heah?"

YONDUH: In a particular direction. "That's a pretty house over yonduh on that hill."

YORE: A personal pronoun. "What's yore favorite country to play?"

YUNGINS: Young ones. "Do you think Diplomacy is a suitable game for yungins?"

ZACKLY: Precisely. "Ah don't zackly know when the spring 1901 deadline is."

ZAT: Is that. "Zat yo army in Tyrolia?"

ZIT: Is it. "Zit 1908 already? Tahm sure flies when you have a good game goin'."

This brings us to the end of the alphabet. Is this the end of the Black Frog 'How to Talk Southern' series? Fear not, there will be at least one more installment. There have been many many omissions that have been brought to my attention over the course of publishing this. Thus, at least one more part will be required to insure that your 'How to Talk Southern' lexicon (I borrowed this word from Mark Berch) is complete.

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HOW TO TALK CHINESE?

Look for a future feature in Black Frog to acquaint you with the Chinese language. You will learn such things as that "WEI NO TAI?" is an expression used to inquire why you're not wearing anything around your neck. That "KHAN MEN" refers to oriental swindlers. That "TAI NI PO NI" refers to a small horse. And, lots of other real good things. Look for "How to Talk Chinese" to start appearing in Black Frog in January.

John H. Masters
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Valencia, CA 91355

() Sample
() Please plug
() See page

FIRST CLASS MAIL